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RURAL DISTRICT OF EAST ASHFORD,

KENT

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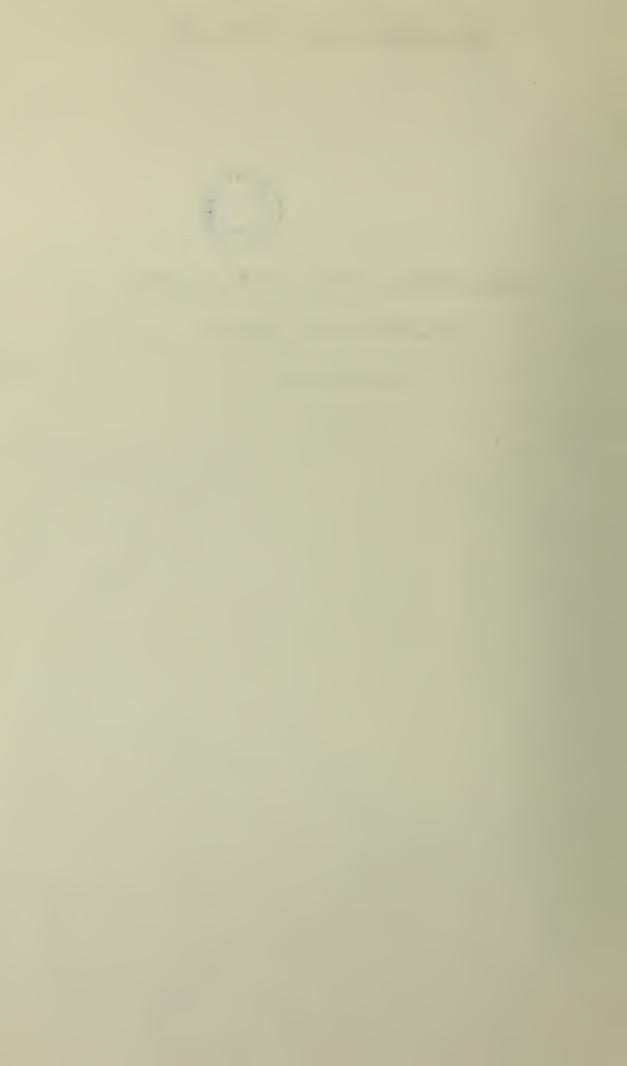
ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH ISNFECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1957

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EAST ASHFORD (KENT) RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector for the Year, 1957.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year, 1957.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 10,540, which was 10 less than in 1956.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 135, which was 11 less than in 1956, and the crude birth rate was 12.81; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which is based on a standardised population and provides comparison of the rate with other Districts, the rate becomes 14.22; this is lower than that of 16.1 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

There were six stillbirths (five male, one female) and the stillbirth rate was accordingly high i.e. 42.55, compared with that of 22.4 for England and Wales. (It should, however, be kept in mind that these figures are too small for precise statistical comparisons, as small variations in the numbers influence the rate disproportionately). There are unavoidable and avoidable stillbirths, and complete ante-natal and obstetric care are essential to keep the latter at a minimum.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

No infant deaths were registered at the rate was, therefore, nil. At the beginning of this Century, 138 infants died for every 1,000 live births throughout the Country and this nil rate of 1957 illustrates the progress that has been achieved; for example, the Child Welfare Centres have made a valuable contribution in the field of prevention, complementary to the advance of medical and sociological science.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

There were no deaths amongst mothers due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion and this rate was also therefore nil.

Also, at the beginning of this Century, the mortality rate was relatively high, as there were five maternal deaths for every 1,000 total (live and still) births; today the rate is under 1, but this represents the deaths of approximately 500 mothers annually.

Toxaemia of pregnancy is the principal cause of these deaths, many of which could be prevented by early diagnosis and treatment during the antenatal phase of pregnancy.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 114 (69 male, 45 female), and the crude death rate was accordingly 10.82; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability factor, as for births, the rate becomes 8.98 which is lower than that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

The greatest number of deaths was due to Heart Disease and Vascular lesions

of the Nervous System, as would be expected as these are the natural terminal causes of death in the aged.

Disease of the coronary artery of the Heart is, however, an exception, as many middle-aged persons become victims. There were seventeen of these deaths, twelve male and five female. The ages at death were 54, 58, 64, 66, 67, 73, 81 years and over.

The second highest number of deaths was due to Cancer, as anticipated, viz. 17. Although the majority of these were amongst the aged and probably associated with procrastination in seeking medical advice, many younger lives could be saved or prolonged by reasonably early diagnosis and treatment.

There were two deaths from Cancer of the Lung, which national statistics have brought into prominence by revealing an increasing incidence during the past twenty-five years, and it is thought that excessive smoking and gross atmospheric pollution are important contributory factors or primary causes.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional influence.

Infectious Disease

There was no death from Infectious Disease.

Measles

There was the expected bi-ennial outbreak of Measles, 164 cases having been notified. This highly infectious disease spreads rapidly throughout class-rooms and it is fortunate that it is not commonly a serious disease. In less than 1% of cases broncho-pneumonia, its chief and most dangerous complication, supervenes; the pneumonia occasionally precedes the appearance of the rash and may advance quickly within 24 hours. Treatment, however, by sulphonamides or antibiotics is usually specific unless the disease, particularly in infants, has become too far advanced.

No vaccine for protection has yet been produced, and if so its practical application would be disputed.

Gamma globulin is, however, available at the Public Health Laboratory for passive immunity and is occasionally used when an exposed child is suffering from another serious illness; if given within five days from exposure, it should prevent the onset of measles, or if given within several days later, it should modify the illness.

Whooping Cough

There was also an outbreak of this disease, 84 cases having been notified. Although it is a very distressing illness to children, it is not commonly dangerous to life, unless its chief complication broncho-pneumonia supervenes, as in Measles. Less that 1% of children have this complication which is especially dangerous in infants. Also the excessive secretion of catarran, which occurs in this disease, may obstruct the narrow lumen of the infants bronchi and cause partial collapse of the lung.

It is hoped that the modern vaccines which are now available at the Child Welfare Centres, in addition to those available through the family Practitioners, will effectively protect those inoculated.

Poliomyelitis

Only one case of this dangerous disease was notified. The patient was a child, aged 3 years, who suffered from the paralytic type and who had not been vaccinated. No direct source of contact or infection was discovered, but north of the district, in an adjoining district, there had been several sporadic cases and it is probable that these were indirectly the source of infection.

Vaccination with British, Canadian and American vaccines, of children

between the age group of 6 months and 15 years and also of expectant mothers, has been proceeding at equal pace with the supplies, and there is firm ground for optimism that vaccination will protect those inoculated.

Erysipelas

One case of this disease was notified. This was a serious disease before the introduction of the sulphonamides in 1936 and of the later antibiotics, which provide specific treatment.

No other cases of infectious disease were notified. A new era in the history of the Infectious Diseases has been reached. All the more serious infectious diseases endemic in this Country can be successfully prevented or treated specifically, with the exception of a few virus diseases; of these Influenza is the most serious.

Asian Influenza

A wide-spread outbreak of this illness occurred early in the Autumn, which is an unusual season for an outbreak of Influenza. The disease had its origin in China and Japan and soon became world-wide in distribution.

The virus was identified locally as being Asian A/England/527/57, and was isolated from throat swabs. The predominant site of infection was the upper respiratory tract.

Commonly, the illness began with a high temperature which gradually declined to normal around the 5th day. Acute tracheitis was one of the chief features of the illness, associated with a severe unproductive cough.

Pneumonia was the most dangerous complication / and deaths in other districts occurred from secondary infection of the lungs by the Staphylococcus Aureus.

The period of incapacity was on an average of seven to fourteen days.

No second wave of infection occurred later in the winter, as in other areas. As the disease was not notifiable, the total number of cases is unknown.

Tuberculosis

Only one new case of respiratory Tuberculosis (male, aged 65 years) was notified.

No new cases of non-respiratory or bovine Tuberculosis were notified which is an index, in general terms, of the safety of the milk and meat supplies.

A new era has also been reached in the history of this disease, both in the fields of prevention and treatment after centuries of suffering and death from its ravages.

The Mass Radiography Service is of great value in detecting early cases who respond successfully to treatment and who otherwise would have become open sources of infection to others.

There are now no waiting lists for Sanatoria, and many patients after discharge have treatment continued at home.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Department and the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1957

Area:- 51,398 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:- The Resident Population	4 0 0	• • •	0 @ 0	10,540
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	006	•••		3,692
Rateable Value:-	• • •	0 0 9	•••	£93,200
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	• • •	• • •	o o •	£372

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

East Ashford Rural District is predominantly agricultural in character - there are few light industries. The Council has been progressive in building 100 pre-war and 425 post-war Traditional Houses, and generally social conditions are very satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

						East Ashford Rural	England and Wales
		Total	M •	F.		District	
1.	Live Births	135	66	65	Birth Rate per 1,000	12.81	16.1
	(a) Legitimate	128	62	66	estimated resident	(Adjusted rate 14.2	
	(b) Illegitimate	7	4	3	population		
2.	Stillbirths	6	5	1	Rate per	42.55	22.4
	(a) Legitimate	6	5	1	1,000 total (live and		
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	still) births		
3.	Deaths	114	69	45	Death rate	10.82	11.5
					per 1,000 resident population	(Adjusted rate 8.9	
4.	Deaths from Pregnancy Childbirth, Abortion.		-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not available
5•	Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age	_	-	-			
	(a) Legitimate	-)	-	-			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	_	-			
	Infant mortality rate Rate re legitimate in Rate re illegitimate	nfants		births		-	23.0
6.	Deaths from Cancer (a Deaths from Whooping Deaths from Gastritic Diarrhoea Deaths from Measles	Cough (all ages			17 - - -	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough			• • •			• • •	
Measles			• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	•
Acute Primary or	Influe:	nzal P	neumon	ia	• • •	• • •	5
Acute Poliomyelit	is (Par	ralyti	c)	• • •	• • •	• • •	1
Ervsipelas	• • •			• . •	• • •		1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN EAST ASHFORD RURAL

DISTRICT DURING 1957

	•				W - 7	Wama 7 a a
	ALL CAUSES				Males	Females
			11.00m to	· magazina a saman	69	45
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	• • •	• • •	• • •	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	• • •	• • •	• • •	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	• • •	• • •	• • •	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	• • •	• • •	•••		
5.	Whooping Cough	• • •	• • •	• • •		ose
6.	Meningococcal infections	•••		• • •	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	• • •	• • •	• • •	-	-
8.	Measles	• • •	• • •	•••	_	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic di	seases	• • •		. -	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	• • •	• • •		-	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronch	us	• • •	• • •	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0 0 0		• • •	-	_
13.	Maiignant neoplasm, uterus	• • •	• • •	• • •	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic ne	oplasm	S	۵ • •	8	4
15.	Leukaemia, alerkaemia	• • •		• • •	1	_
16.	Diabetes	0 0 0	• • •	• • •	-	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous syst	em	0 2 0	0 • •	10	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	• • •	• • •	• • •	12	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	• • •	• • •	• • •	8	-
20.	Other heart disease	• • •	• • •	• • •	4	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	• • •		• • •	4	1
22.	Influenza		• • •	• • •	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	• • •	• • •	• • •	-	-
24.	Bronchitis	• • •		• • •	7	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory sy	stem	• • •	• • •	1	_
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum			• • •	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrho	ea	• • •	• • •	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	• • •		• • •	_	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	• • •	• • •		_	, _
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0 • •	• • •	•••	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	• • •	• • •	•••	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined di	seases	• • •	• • •	5	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	• • •	• • •	•••	1	1
34.	All other accidents	• • •		• • •	2	_
35.	Suicide	• • •	۵ • •	• • •	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	9 0 0		• • •	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1957

Total cases on Register	Respiratory Non- Respiratory	M. F W.	39 30 11 7										
 Deaths	Respiratory Non- Respiratory	M. F.	1 1 1	1	1		1	1	1 1	1	1	1	-
New Cases	Respiratory Non- Respiratory	M. F.	1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1	1	Ti	T I	1	1 - 1	1	1	
Age Feriods				0 0 0	·		25	35	54	55	65 and upwards	Letto⊕	1 5 0 1

There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1957

The following is a return of (A) the number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957		Total
Primary Inoculations	-	-		_	-	1	1	1	4	5	4	6	14	79	6		121
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	3	5	3	9	3	2	12	57	4	-	_	-	-		98
(B) VACCINATION	<u>/IO</u>															Before 1943	
Primary Vaccination	_	1	-	-	_	-	_	1	-	-	-	1	1	35	34	6t 4	77
Re- Vaccination	-	-	_	_	_	-	1	-	-	1	-	***	-	_	-	16	18

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1957

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1943).

Year of Birth	194	194	194	194	194	194	194	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	Tot
Last complete cours of injections (whether primary or booster)	e															
1953 - 1957	48	60	48	52	79	113	96	95	102	1 30	104	113	108	89	6	1243
1952 or earlier	73	64	83	83	79	18	37	33	47	1	-	-	-	_	-	518

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1957

The following table gives the numbers of children who received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

Born 1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
70	47	56	48	22	17	19	15		_	_	294

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. Water Supply

The Mid-Kent Water Company supplies most of the District; subsidiary supplies to a few Parishes are obtained from the Ashford Urban District Council's undertaking and from the Folkestone and District Water Company.

A network of water mains has been provided in every Parish and approximately 91% of the total number of dwelling houses have a supply from the mains.

An extension of water mains to the Naccolt area of Wye was in progress on 31-12-57. A new bore hole has been drilled near Pope Street Farm, Godmersham by the Mid-Kent Water Company and a new 22" main therefrom is in course of being laid to Ashford.

47 houses, including new houses were connected to existing water mains during the year.

Monthly bacteriological and quarterly chemical raw water samples from the sources of supply are taken by these three Undertakings and throughout the year, all the samples were satisfactory. Regular samples are also taken of the chlorinated supplies at the periphery by the Public Health Inspector - these too were all satisfactory.

The following table gives the number of houses in each Parish supplied by the three Undertakings.

Parish	No. of dwelling houses	No. of hous Mid-Kent Water Co's. Mains	Ashford	ed with:- Folkestone Water Co.
Aldington Bilsington Bonnington Boughton Aluph Brabourne Brook Challock Chilham Crundale Eastwell Godmersham Hastingleigh Hinxhill Mersham Molash Orlestone Ruckinge Sevington Smeeth Warehorne Wye	267 104 38 221 265 78 120 461 63 40 102 74 18 275 77 207 233 63 227 119 640	242 96 38 211 235 78 119 424 58 24 102 86 253 77 186 185 9 205 114 549	18 43 11	13
Totals	3,692	3,291	72	13

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

A minor sewerage system together with purification works and subsurface irrigation system has been constructed for the drainage of 24 existing Council houses and 12 private houses at Cobbs Hill, Old Wives Lees, Chilham. At the present time only two of the private houses have been so connected.

Emptying of Cesspools

The emptying of cesspools in all parts of the district is undertaken by the Council twice yearly on written request being made by householders. During the year 1957, the number emptied was 1,497. This work is carried out by contract.

Emptying of Pail-closets

There are still a considerable number of houses in the area with this primitive method of sanitation. The emptying of these pail-closets is carried out in the parish of Boughton Aluph and part of the parish of Chilham. In the parish of Boughton Aluph the emptying takes place once weekly, by contract, and the number to be emptied is approximately 54. In the parish of Chilham the emptying is carried out twice weekly in an area covering The Square, The Street and the Railway Station and the number to be emptied is approximately 25.

3. Housing

No houses were erected by the Council during the year but 26 were built by private enterprise. Since the war period 425 traditional houses have been crected by the Council and 175 by private enterprise.

Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under (a) Public Health and Housing Acts 55 Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation 10 Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense 9 Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action 8 Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 3 Number of houses demolished Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 Number of dwelling houses reconditioned and undertakings cancelled

(b) Improvements and Conversions

During the year, 30 houses qualifying for Improvement Grant were improved in the District, these improvements included the provision of 27 bathrooms, the conversion of 24 existing pail-closets to water closet accommodation, the provision of 24 hot water systems. One large farmhouse was converted into two separate modernised dwellings. The total cost of improvement works was £17,821 and the amount of grant aid given was £7,560.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of house refuse is undertaken by direct labour with a Dennis 15 cubic rear loading barrier type covered refuse vehicle having a separate salvage compartment. Three driver/loaders are employed on this work.

The major part of the district is covered by a fortnightly collection

with a weekly collection in the town area of Wye and a four-weekly collection in certain scattered and less populated areas.

Four refuse tips are in use for the disposal of house refuse, the first being near Drylands Farm, Molash, the second at White Hill, Boughton Aluph, the third at the Kent County Quarry, Aldington, and the fourth at Granary Court Road, Smeeth. Two of these refuse tips consist of large disused chalk pits, one the disused part of a rock quarry and the fourth is a very large disused sandpit.

5. Salvage

During the year, 146 tons 17 cwts. of baled waste paper was sold for £1,121. 16. 7d., also 5 cwts. of rags valued at £5. 0. 4d. The total income from salvage was £1,126. 16. 11d.

6. Control of Infestation

(a) Rodent Control

297 infestations with rats and mice were dealt with by the Council's part time Rodent Operator. Routine baiting and gassing of rats on the Council's four refuse tipa was undertaken and satisfactory results obtained. There are no large scale sources of rat infestation in the district.

(b) Insect Infestation

21 infestations with fleas, arts, cockroaches, flies, wasps, etc., were dealt with. Advice is frequently sought on methods of dealing with these infestations and sprayers and powder blowers with insecticides are loaned on request.

7. Sanitary Inspection of the District

General

	No. in District:	No. of Inspections	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied
Bakehouses Dairies Ice Cream Premises Slaughterhouses Other places where	2	6	2	2
	5	5	2	2
	36	12	-	-
	4	147	3	3
food is prepared Offensive Trades Factories	8	17	1	1
	1	3	-	-
	46	22	7	6

Analysis of Nuisances and Defects remedied during the year under Public Health and Housing Acts.

Water Supplies	1
Roofs	12
Walls (external)	17
Chimney stacks	7
Rainwater pipes	15
Gutters	8
Dampness	9
Wall plaster	14
Ceilings	18
Floors	22
Windows	15
Sashcords	_
Additional lighting	3
Additional ventilation	4
Doors	7
Cooking and heating appliances	-

Baths, lavatory basins and sinks Drainage:- (a) Reconstructed and new (b) Repaired	7 26 5
(c) Cleared Septic tank plant and cesspools repaired	5 4 7 - 24
Other defects Closet accommodation (a) Renewed (b) Repaired	- 24 2
Offensive Accumulations Keeping of Animals	2 2
Total No. of inspections of all kinds during the year No. of premises connected to rain sewers No. of premises with pail closets No. of premises with earth closets or middens No. of premises not connected to Public Water Supply No. of Statutory Notices served No. of Informal Notices served No. of premises disinfected Statutory Notices Served:-	2,422 705 2,987 892 37 316 - 42 6
Under the Housing Acts.	
Notices of Intention to consider the making of Demolition),
Demolition Orders Notices of Intention to consider the making of	4 3
Closing Orders Closing Orders Section 9, Housing Acts, 1936 & 1957 (Repairs)	5 5 -
Under the Public Health Act, 1936	
Nuisance Abatement Notices Water Supplies (Section 138)	-
	17

8. Hop Pickers Camps

The seven hop pickers camps, all in the Parish of Chilham, were visited on 16 occasions by the Public Health Inspector and these were maintained in the same favourable condition as in previous years. Apart from maintenance repairs no improvements of any importance were carried out. Owing to a decreasing number of imported pickers and the impending use of further hop-picking machinery little in the way of major improvements or new accommodation is anticipated.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

1. Milk

Apart from producer retailers there are only five retail dairies in the district and none for the wholesale handling or distribution of milk.

2. Ice Cream

36 shops and other premises are registered for the sale or storage of Ice Cream. There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district

3. Meat

Slaughterhouses

There are four small licensed slaughterhouses in the District, but only three were in regular use and these were visited on 147 occasions for the purpose of meat inspection. All the animals slaughtered were in prime condition and did not include any cows or casualty animals. On four occasions small quantities of meat or offals were condemned, the total weight being 101 lbs.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cowp	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	<u>Pigs</u>	
Number killed	320	-	30	430	357	Gu
Number inspected	292	- 1	29	369	334	
All diseases except tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned		_	· :	-	:	Market to the same
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	· -	
Fercentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	0.7%	-	-	-		
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	- -	-	-	-	-	# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	_	- ,	-	-	a go - chapter crags a
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.7%	-	-	-	-	!

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

	Premises	Number on Register	Inspect-	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	7	2	. -
Li.	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	15	3	- -
ii	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-wrokers' premises)	-	-		
		46	22	5	

:2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found Referred				Number of cases in which	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspec-		prosecutions were instituted	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Vant of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2			-	
Overcrowding (S.2)	<u> </u>	- -	<u>-</u>	-		
Inreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	_	: · · •	! -	-	
[nadequate ventilation (S.4)	·	: } 	i	_	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	_	-	-	
Sanitary Coneniences (S.7)			1			
(a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes	- - - -	3 -	- - -	. - -	- - -	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	- -	: _	i	
	7	6		-	-	

